

## Data Sheet

<b>USAID Mission:</b>	Eurasia Regional
<b>Program Title:</b>	Civil Society
<b>Pillar:</b>	Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance
<b>Strategic Objective:</b>	110-0210
<b>Status:</b>	Continuing
<b>Proposed FY 2003 Obligation:</b>	\$571,000 FSA
<b>Prior Year Unobligated:</b>	\$396,000 FSA
<b>Proposed FY 2004 Obligation:</b>	\$473,000 FSA
<b>Year of Initial Obligation:</b>	FY 1992
<b>Estimated Completion Date:</b>	FY 2006

**Summary:** USAID's program to increase the quality and quantity of citizen participation in the political and economic decision-making includes grants, training, and technical assistance in the following areas: Civil society and NGO strengthening; independent media support; and program development support.

### Inputs, Outputs, Activities:

#### FY 2003 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$225,000 FSA). The Regional Networking Program (RNP) strengthens the capacity NGOs to inform public opinion and to influence public policy to accelerate the region's transition to open political and economic systems. RNP will devote special effort in FY 2003 to promoting cross-border initiatives between Central and Eastern Europe and Eurasian organizations that inform public opinion and promote the on-going reform process. Activities will include a major conference, exchanges, and grants. The principal grantee is Freedom House.

The NGO Legal Reform Initiative (NGOLRI) works to develop legal frameworks that support the constructive role of non-profit organizations in their communities. In FY 2003, NGOLRI will encourage the sharing of lessons between CEE and Eurasia through joint research projects, cross-border consultations, translating and digitizing materials, and sponsoring participation in meetings of inter-regional interest. FY2003 is anticipated to be the last year of funding for this project. The principal grantee is the International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (ICNL).

Support for independent media (\$100,000 FSA). The Regional Media Program strengthens independent print and broadcast media in the region by creating linkages between journalists and other media professionals throughout the region and encouraging coverage of issues of regional importance. FY 2003 priorities include encouraging more cross border and regional investigative reporting; monitoring media legal issues, including the drafting and implementation of media laws; defining best practices in media development; and assessing and ranking media systems in the region through the Media Sustainability Index (MSI). The principal grantee is IREX.

Program development support (\$246,000 FSA). The above program areas will be supported by program-funded technical staff, travel, conferences, and informational meetings.

#### FY 2004 Program:

Civil society and NGO strengthening (\$88,000 FSA). In FY 2004, RNP will continue its efforts to strengthen key think tanks and civic organizations with institutional grants and anticipates increased regional networking and grant activities between Eurasia and CEE with support from USAID as well as private sources.

Support for independent media (\$100,000 FSA). The Regional Media Program will continue to support regional and cross-border media development activities, creating linkages between journalists in different countries.

Program development support (\$285,000 FSA). Program-funded staff, travel, conferences and meetings will continue to support the above program areas.

**Performance and Results:** In addition to the award of 14 grants and sponsorship of partnership exchanges, RNP completed a strategic plan for the program's expansion to Russia and Eurasia and to diversify funding sources for this successful networking activity. NGOLRI focused on issues surrounding NGO taxation and began work to expand a comparative survey of tax laws affecting NGOs in the region to cover Eurasian countries as well, which will thereafter be available to support NGO tax reform in specific countries.

The Regional Media Program funded the second edition of the MSI; increased the number of investigative journalism stories that led to real reform; continued work on defining best practices in media development; and promoted greater cooperation between European partners and USAID in drafting media laws and monitoring their implementation. Several noteworthy investigative articles were published with support from the Regional Media Program, including an article on smuggling in Georgia and an article on crimes and murders concealed by the army in Armenia.

## US Financing in Thousands of Dollars

Eurasia Regional

110-0210 Civil Society	<b>ESF</b>	<b>FSA</b>
<b>Through September 30, 2001</b>		
Obligations	799	7,293
Expenditures	799	6,581
Unliquidated	0	712
<b>Fiscal Year 2002</b>		
Obligations	0	823
Expenditures	0	741
<b>Through September 30, 2002</b>		
Obligations	799	8,116
Expenditures	799	7,322
Unliquidated	0	794
<b>Prior Year Unobligated Funds</b>		
Obligations	0	396
<b>Planned Fiscal Year 2003 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	571
<b>Total Planned Fiscal Year 2003</b>		
Obligations	0	967
<b>Proposed Fiscal Year 2004 NOA</b>		
Obligations	0	473
Future Obligations	0	0
Est. Total Cost	799	9,556